

REMARKS

The Office Action of August 3, 2004 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-8 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, which indication is appreciatively acknowledged.

Claim 1 was rejected as being unpatentable over Sigwanz in view of Sutterlin and Ehara. The rejection states in part:

[I]t would have been obvious...to modify the combination of Sigwanz with the teaching of Ehara to incorporate a combination of a power supply circuit and bias circuit disposed between two components such as the microphone and the sigma-delta converter of Sigwanz in order to supply power to the sigma-delta converter and a bias signal to the microphone which would reduce the number of parts in the power system.

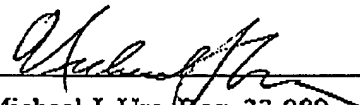
This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combined power supply/bias circuit of Ehara is specifically for an ECM microphone. It would not have been obvious to use such a circuit to power the sigma-delta modulator of Sutterlin. Furthermore, the bias circuit portion of the combined circuit of Ehara is for applying a power supply voltage to the non-inverting input terminal of the operational amplifier of Ehara. Such an operational amplifier is characteristic of an analog system but is not necessarily present in the mainly digital system of Sigwanz.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to patentably define over the cited references.

Dependent claims 2-8 are also believed to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: November 3, 2004